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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above listed claim amendments along with the following remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action set forth above. Claims 1-50 and 53-58 are pending, with claims 1-49 withdrawn. By this paper, claims 1-49 are canceled, claim 50 is amended and claims 59-60 are newly added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 50 and 53-58 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bramwell *et al.* in view of Welte.

Bramwell *et al.* (hereinafter “Bramwell”) is understood to refer to US patent 4,444,495; and Welte is understood to refer to US patent 6,301,997.

Claim 50 has been amended to recite that the “first and second beams are angled to approach one another in a direction taken from the gun towards the target surface.” Support for this feature is found throughout the figures and specification. *See* Figure 4A. Applicants respectfully submit that the two beams of Bramwell (15a and 15b) are arranged to *diverge* in a direction taken from the spray nozzle towards the target area. This configuration is necessary so that the light beams projected on the target area correspond to the spray pattern emitted from the nozzle. In this manner, the light beams are used to predict the aim of the spray nozzle. The angle of the spray nozzle can then be adjusted accordingly. In stark contrast, Applicants’ invention as positively claimed in claim 50 has first and second beams that are angled to approach one another “in a direction taken from the gun towards the target surface.” This configuration allows Applicant’s invention to be used to control the *distance* of the gun from the target surface.

Turning now to the patent to Welte, applicants agree that Welte relates to a system for positioning which uses visible light beams. However, Welte is not of assistance to one seeking to solve the problem addressed by applicants’ invention. Welte, in contrast, has apparatus that is in abutment with the target surface, negating the need for determining the distance to the target surface. Welte, like Bramwell, assists the user in locating and

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maintaining the proper angular orientation of the tool with respect to the target surface, without regard for the distance between the tool and target surface.

For the above reasons, the §103 rejection of claims 50 and 53-58 is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

New Claims

Independent claims 59 and 60 are newly added. Independent claim 59 is generally similar to claim 50 with the additional feature of bringing the pair of illuminated spots to a predetermined desired alignment pattern "relative to one another" on the target surface. Support for claim 59 is found through the specification and figures, including, for example, in the discussion at paragraph [0056]. In contrast, Bramwell describes aligning the illuminated spots with features on the target surface itself. In this manner, the illuminated spots predict the expected spray pattern on the target surface and the angle of the nozzle is adjusted. For example, the spots are desirably aligned to a gap between adjacent rollers rather than on the rollers themselves. The relationship of the spots to one another is irrelevant; it is the relationship between each spot and the target surface that is used by the Bramwell apparatus to adjust the angle of the spray nozzle. Entry and examination of new claim 59 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 60 is generally similar to claim 50 with the additional feature of bringing the pair of illuminated spots to a predetermined desired alignment pattern on the target surface "by adjusting the distance of the gun from the target surface." Support for claim 60 is found throughout the specification, including, for example, the discussion of paragraph [0059]. In contrast, Bramwell describes an alignment apparatus that is located at a predetermined, fixed distance to a target surface. The alignment apparatus is used to control the aim, or angle, of the spray gun. At no point, however, does Bramwell teach or suggest adjusting the distance of the gun from the target surface to bring the pair of illuminated spots to a predetermined desired alignment pattern. Entry and examination of new claim 60 is respectfully requested.

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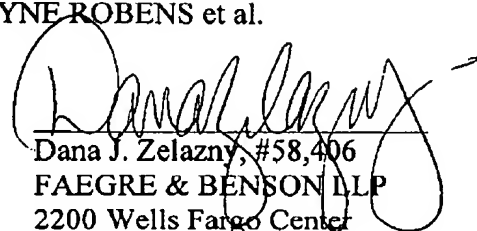
Conclusion

All pending and not withdrawn claims are now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dated: April 26, 2006

Serial No.: 10/809,048

M2:20789529.01